

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending after entry of this paper. Claims 1-11 have been rejected.

Claim 1 has been amended. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments. Amendments have been made solely for the purpose of furthering prosecution and in no way constitute prejudice towards or waiver of any subject matter contained therein. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the pending rejections in view of the above claim amendments and below remarks are respectfully requested.

Response to Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7, and 9-11 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) for allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,487,819 ("Everett").

As set forth in detail the October 10, 2007 Amendment and Response, the leaching of gold as described by Everett by means of halox compounds, not bivalent copper. In view of the amendments to claim 1, applicants believe that the rejection is moot, and respectfully request withdrawal of same.

Response to Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 3, 6, and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Everett alone. In view of the amendments to claim 1, applicants believe that the rejection is moot, and respectfully request withdrawal of same.

Dependent Claims

The applicants have not independently addressed all of the rejections of the dependent claims. The applicants submit that for at least similar reasons as to why independent claim 1 from which all of the dependent claims 2-11 depend is believed allowable as discussed *supra*, the dependent claims are also allowable. The applicants however, reserve the right to address any individual rejections of the dependent claims and present independent bases for allowance for the dependent claims should such be necessary or appropriate.

Thus, applicants respectfully submit that the invention as recited in the claims as presented herein is allowable over the art of record, and respectfully request that the respective rejections be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application. Favorable action by the Examiner is earnestly solicited.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. **13-4500**, Order No. 4819-4722.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. **13-4500**, Order No. 4819-4722.

Respectfully submitted,
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